

Message Text

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ACTION AID-31

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7840

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, IN

SUBJ: AAFLI: STATUS IN INDIA

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO MORRIS PALADINO,
ASIAN-AMERICAN FREE LABOR INSTITUTE, WASHINGTON, D.C:

2. QUOTE. MET MARCH 31 WITH INTUC'S MUKERJI AND THAKAR.
OPENED MEETING BY SAYING GRAY AND I APPRECIATIVE OF
INTUC'S OFFER THROUGH BHAGAVATI DURING OUR RECENT MEETING-
ING HELP AAFLI ESTABLISH OFFICE AND STATING PURPOSE MY
VISIT DISCUSS HOO WORK OUT STEP-BY-STEP COORDINATED PLAN
WITH INTUC ON HOW TO PROCEED. THEY CONFIRMED BY IMPLI-
CATION BHAGAVATI'S OFFER BUT SAID COULD NOT TAKE
DECISION ON HOW TO PROCEED UNTIL HIS RETURN TO
DELHI ON APRIL 15. AM PREPARING A MEMORANDUM ADDRESSED
TO BHAGAVATI ENUMERATING POINTS I THINK WORTHY OF
CONSIDERATION IN DECIDING ON CONCERTED APPROACH,
INCLUDING DETAILS OF MY CONTACT WITH FINANCE MINISTER
SUBRAMANIAM AND GUIDELINES I ACQUIRE FROM FORD FOUNDA-
TION AND REPORTED TO YOU CONCERNING APPLICATION PROCEDURE
AND AGREEMENT, INCLUDING TAX AND CUSTOMS PRIVILEGES. I
INTEND TO DELIVER THIS MEMORANDUM THIS WEEK AGAINST POSSI-
BILITY SUCH TIMELY DELIVERY MAY HELP EXPEDITE ACTION WHEN
BHAGAVATI RETURNS, AND WILL ARRANGE TO MEET WITH HIM AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE. HOPEFULLY, THIS WILL RESULT IN A MUTUALLY
AGREEABLE PLAN AND CONCRETE ACTION TO CARRY IT OUT.

3. INTUC HAS RECEIVED PRESIDENT MEANY'S LETTER TO BHAGA-
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VATI, OF WHICH CHUCK GRAY LEFT ME DRAFT COPY, AND THAKAR'S

AND MUKERJI'S REACTIONS INDICATE LETTER COULD HAVE A STRONG AND FAVORABLE EFFECT THAT MIGHT EVEN LEAD TO A WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH INTUC IN ADDITION TO REINFORCING THE NOW CONFIRMED DECISION TO HELP US ESTABLISH AN OFFICE. I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED CONFIRMATION DIRECT FROM BHAGAVATI, BUT ALTHOUGH AUTHORITY OF THAKAR AND MUKERJI IS LIMITED, THEIR ATTITUDES AND THE INFORMATION THEY FURNISH GENERALLY REFLECT ACCURATELY TOP-LEVEL DECISIONS.

4. MAHASH DESAI UNDOUBTEDLY HAS PRESIDENT MEANY'S MARCH 7 LETTER. IF WE SHOULD SUCCEED IN ESTABLISHING A WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH BOTH INTUC AND HMS, IT WOULD INEVITABLY BE SOMEWHAT COMPLICATED AND, TO BE EFFECTIVE, WOULD IMPLY FROM THE VERY BEGINNING CLOSE COORDINATION, NEGOTIATION AND METICULOUS ATTENTION TO THE TIMELY FLOW OF INFORMATION. THEREFORE, I INTEND TO TALK WITH MAHESH AFTER I HAVE AGAIN TALKED WITH BHAGAVATI, INFORMING HIM COMPLETELY OF THE STATUS OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH INTUC AND SUBRAMANIAM. I PLAN NOT TO SCHEDULE ALREADY AGREED-ON SECOND MEETING WITH SUBRAMANIAM UNTIL I HAVE MET WITH BHAGAVATI AND WE AND INTUC HAVE AGREED ON SPECIFIC ACTION PLAN.

4. WE MAY WISH TO RETAIN INDIAN ATTORNEY WITH RELEVANT EXPERIENCE AND CONTACTS AT SOME POINT IN NEGOTIATIONS AND AM BEGINNING IMMEDIATELY SEARCH TO IDENTIFY POSSIBLE CANDIDATE BUT WILL APPROACH NO ONE WITHOUT CLEARANCE FROM YOU.

5. UNDER THESE CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES, I RECOMMEND THAT I CONTINUE TO OPERATE OUT OF DELHI INSTEAD OF BOMBAY FOR THE TIME BEING. PLEASE CABLE YOUR DECISION ON THIS RECOMMENDATION.

6. NEW SUBJECT: I OBTAINED ON MARCH 31 THE FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FOREIGNERS REGIONAL REGISTRATION OFFICE TO THE HOME MINISTRY FOR THE EXTENSION OF GERDA'S VISA TO COINCIDE WITH THE EXPIRATION OF MY OWN, JUNE 18 (FOR CHUCK GRAY: OUR THEORY TO EXPLAIN THE THREATENED DIFFICULTIES THERE WAS PROBABLY CORRECT AND I SERIOUSLY DOUBT THAT THEY WILL REOCCUR). WEAST. END QUOTE.
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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED WASHINGTON, D.C.

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